



FEAR changed to COURAGE! During this whole pandemic



year, fear has been rampant in many people's lives. Fear of illness, fear for economic security or any other fear. Here is a recent battle I (Jose) had with fear

that God has changed into courage. In 2017, when we moved into the Las Margaritas, marginalized neighborhood, we knew there would be challenges. Many families of this neighborhood are dysfunctional. One family down the block has had

numerous violent fights in the street. I have also observed dealing and doing drugs, stealing from neighbors' and domestic violence. What's happening in the homes, flows out into the streets and hugely affects the whole community environment. I started to take all this personally when they verbally threatened me. I felt really tired of the mental, emotional, and spiritual stress. I no longer wanted to battle in prayer. I became filled with so much fear and anger. I was paralyzed and depressed. My relationship with God and family was weakening. I wanted to retaliate. I was a mess. I was rude to my wife, Joann, and our kids; they didn't seem to understand since they weren't struggling in the same way. I wanted to give up and throw in the towel. I considered returning to the US; that's how fed up I was. However, part of me still wanted to stay. I partly wanted to finish what the Lord is leading us to do in caring for orphans here in Mexico. Finally, after months, the cesspool of emotions within me, came to a peak in May. I was battling in prayer and by God's grace HE gave me a reminder of His words. **I was reminded of this verse: "...for God gave us a spirit NOT OF FEAR but**

of power and love and self-control." 2 Timothy 1:7. In addition, the Bible tells us TO FEAR NOT over 300 times!

The verse in Timothy reminded me of the Bible story of the **12 spies in Numbers 13 & 14**. The spies were sent to the future promise land to bring back a report. Ten spies returned full of **fear**, and they didn't want to obey the Lord to conquer the land. The 10 spies saw the people of the promise land as giants who would eat them alive. They exaggerated, rather than seeing things realistically. Those 10 spies sadly DID NOT enter the promise land since they didn't trust and obey the Lord. My **fear** had so gripped me that, I had gotten to the same point. I was exaggerating the risk of harm. BUT after I heard the divine reminder that I needed to live by faith, not by sight. I needed the Holy Spirit's power to have love and a sound mind; God has now given me **courage** to continue. **Living in courageous obedience to God brings blessings.**

Amazingly God set it up, that I courageously shared the good news of Jesus with those same guys who have threatened me and encouraged them to draw near to God! Please join us in prayer for transformed lives in our neighborhood. Pray for us to continue to walk in courageous faith, filled with the Holy Spirit's power, love and self-control.

DIRECTION thru fog! Have you ever driven through fog? You slow down to be safer. You put your lights on and are attentive. To make correct turns you drive very carefully and look for signs. This is how we have felt in preparation to care for fatherless children.

Back in 2004 God showed Jose a picture of him caring for a fatherless child in Mexico. From that time on Jose has been on track to fulfill that vision. Jose has valuable experience in this field at Lydia Home in Chicago, Pan de Vida Orphanage here in Queretaro, Mexico and as the pastor of the church here in San Jose El



Alto, Queretaro, Nueva Vida Community Church. He has made a crucial connection with Casa Ammi Children's Home also here in Queretaro. Even with these connection Jose still needed direction—where to start?

On Father's Day 2020, we were privileged to have a ZOOM call with the director of Esperanza Viva Orphanage in Puebla Mexico, Jerry McNally. He encouraged us to be attentive to the Lord for what type of child-care ministry to start. So, we asked the Lord if we should start a large home or institution or a family style home with 12 kids only and how many children we should reach.

In the beginning of this year, the Lord gave us the word 'prevention' regarding working with kids. This word is to prevent children from getting in the DCFS (DIF—here in Mexico) system. This is exactly what we observed with a few families we have worked with recently. The fathers who were strung on drugs and alcohol came out of a rehabilitation center with transformed lives. We took one whole family to a Christian alcohol and drug Rehabilitation center. The fathers came out of the rehab and no longer did drugs and were restored as husbands and fathers of their families. They began to live for the Lord. **After seeing that family orientated rehabilitation center, Jose asked God, should we do something like this ministry? We put on our "head lights" in the middle of the fog—seeking direction.** We would have a team care for the parents while we take care of their children as they are in rehabilitation. If the parents will not change, we are willing to continue to care for the children if needed.

On June 18th, God set up a divine appointment for Jose. That is when the fog continued to clear, giving us specific direction regarding what type of child-care ministry to start. That day went like this: as a Nueva Vida church, we rent a building, but the owner wants to sell it. Since I (Jose) pastor the church here in San Jose El Alto, Queretaro, the owner contacted me. The owner asked me to open the building for someone interested in buying it. The interested person was Pastor Omar from the Salvation Army. He



Pastor Omar Salvation Army

immediately told me they wanted to open an orphanage. I told them we want to open an orphanage too! But that wasn't all. Pastor Omar spoke with the building owner. I went to the patio to reply to an email from Esperanza Viva Orphanage director Jerry McNally. I planned to ask Jerry what he thought about the ministry style of a

home where we take care of kids while the parents are in rehabilitation. I wasn't even able to finish writing the email before Pastor Omar came out to the patio. **The first thing Omar told me then was they wanted to open a boys and**

girls orphanage while they send the children's parents to an alcohol and drug rehab. After he said this my mouth dropped open. He said **exactly** the ministry model that I was praying about starting. In that very moment I was writing an email to Jerry McNally considering that style of child-care.

It was almost like, through the directionless fog, God was waving a flag signaling----Go this way. The confirmation continued through prayer and meeting with Pan de Vida orphanage directors, Casa Ammi directors, the Children of Hope director, and staff from Esperanza Viva Orphanage.



restoration. Please join us in prayer for the legal process to go correctly and for wisdom as we form a team to lead this ministry. Also, remember that even in 'foggy' directionless times in our lives the Lord is our Good Shepherd as mentioned in John 10.

God bless you all. We really appreciate your partnership to continue what the Lord is doing here in Queretaro, Mexico through Nueva Vida Community Church.



With love and gratitude,

Jose, Joann, Louisa, Giovanni and Hanna Carrillo

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We would like to see you during our visit to the USA! Please join us September 12th at New Life Community Church Midway. Or contact us to meet September 21-26th

We are convinced that the Lord is giving us direction--out of the fog--to begin the legal process to provide care for children whose parents are in rehabilitation and if possible encourage family